providing for their non-performing assets.

(c) and (d) The buy-back rate was arrived at through screen-based auction. Participating bank and financial institutions were required to quote prices with minimum discount of 7.5% to the average market prices. The actual discount offered ranged from 7.5% to 9.11%.

Adulteration in petroleum products

*237. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to initiate to control adulteration of petrol and other products; and

(b) the steps proposed within a time-frame to control such sales by outlets of oil PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) In order to prevent adulteration, following steps have been taken:-

(i) issuance of Naphtha & Solvents Control Orders,

(ii) establishment of Anti-Adulteration Cell,

(iii) blue dyeing/furfural doping of Public Distribution System (PDS) Kerosene,

(iv) regular/surprise inspections by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and officials of Anti-Adulteration Cell (AAC),

(v) revision of Marketing Discipline Guidelines making them more stringent,

(vi) amendment to SKO Control Order mandating filing of quarterly returns & end-use certificates by the kerosene Parallel Marketeers with State Government Authorities.

(vii) preventing use of Parallel Marketing Scheme (PMS) Kerosene in Automobiles,

(viii) introduction of new tamper proof tank-truck locking system,

(ix) trials on Market System.

Under the provisions of various Control Orders issued under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, State Governments have been expowered to deal with cases of adulteration.

Government review its policies regularly to develop new steps to improve quality of services to the customer.

Capital Market Reforms

*238. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Prime Minister has desired to revive the capital market and wanted the people to invest in stock market rather than depositing in banks;

(b) if so, whether NSDL and SEBI are following this policy for expanding the activities in stock market by reducing unwarranted and unnecessary expenses of the investors for holding of their portfolios; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) While launching the "Securities Market Awareness Campaign" at New Delhi on January 17, 2003, the Prime Minister had stressed the need for a dynamic capital market.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL) continuously try and minimize the cost to investors of holding their portfolio. Although tariff charges by the Depositories is a commercial issue, SEBI had advised NSDL to review the fee and the charges structure. NSDL has revised the tariff structure with effect from May, 2002.

NSDL reduced its charges twice during 2002-2003. The settlement fee of Rs. 15 per debit instruction announced in February, 2002 was reduced to Rs. 10 with effect from May 1, 2002. Similarly, the custody fee of Re. 0.75 per month for securities held under each International Securities Identification Number announced in February, 2002, was reduced to Re. 0.50 per month, with effect from October 1, 2002.

Damage to places of national heritage during rainy season

†*240. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.